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The Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories, Khartoum, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan

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ALBERT J. CHALMERS, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Director, Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories

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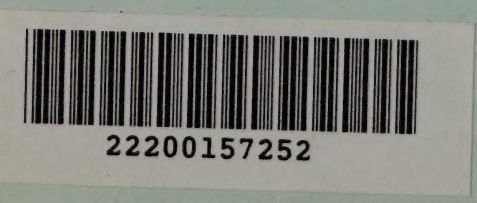
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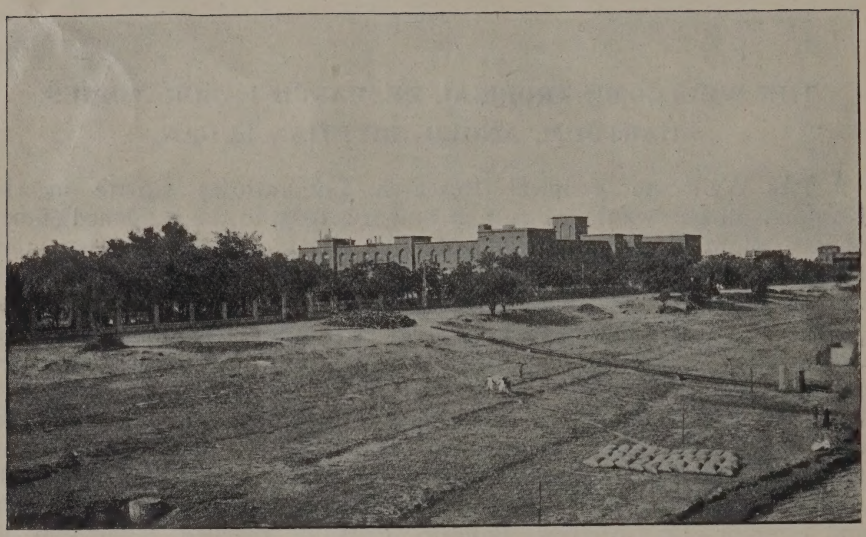
THE WELLCOME TROPICAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES, KHARTOUM, ANGLO-EGYPTIAN SUDAN.

The Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories situate in the Gordon College owe their origin in January, 1903, to the combined efforts of The Right Honourable Field Marshal Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, His Excellency General Sir Reginald Wingate, G.C.B., Mr. James Currie, C.M.G., and Mr. Henry S. Wellcome. The last-mentioned gentleman most generously presented the original equipment to the Government of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan to which the Laboratories belong. Mr. Wellcome's kindness to and interest in the Laboratories have not been confined to furnishing the original equipment, as he refurnished them after the disastrous fire in 1908. In addition he has provided funds for the four reports and the two reviews so far published, and this year has given a sum of money for partial re-equipment. The first director, Dr. Andrew Balfour, C.M.G., reached Khartoum in January, 1903, and in his own words "found that everything connected with the Laboratories was in a very backward condition. The rooms were not nearly ready and much of the equipment had yet to arrive." From this condition he raised the Laboratories to the position which they at present occupy in the world of Tropical Medicine and Science, and brought out the four reports already mentioned, together with a large number of original papers, before he retired in April, 1913, after more than ten years of strenuous and most successful toil. In this work he was ably assisted from the earliest commencement by Dr. Beam, who is still Research Chemist of the Laboratories, and later by Mr. King, who was appointed Entomologist in 1906 and still holds this post. In 1908 Captain Archibald, R.A.M.C., was appointed Pathologist, and later Captain (now Major) Fry, R.A.M.C., filled the new post of Protozoologist from 1910 to 1912, when he was succeeded by Captain O'Farrell, R.A.M.C. Early in 1913 Mr. Freak was appointed Junior Assistant Chemist, and later in the same year Mr. Wilks, of Caius College, Cambridge, became Senior Assistant Chemist. In addition the Laboratories have been fortunate to secure most excellent laboratory assistants, among whom may be mentioned Mr. George Buchanan, whose paper on "Developmental Forms of Trypanosoma brucei" was published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society for 1911 and who is now studying Medicine. He was succeeded by Mr. Alexander Marshall, who has already begun research work. Two new Laboratory Assistants started their work in 1914, viz., Mr. Cottam as Entomological, and Mr. Macdonald as Junior Bacteriological Laboratory Assistants. The above officials and a number of native servants complete the Staff of the Laboratories. The general appearance of the east wing of the Gordon College in which the Laboratories are situate may be judged from fig. 1, and the nature of the Bacteriological Out-houses from fig. 2. The Chemical and Entomological Out-houses are not depicted. The



[*Special Photograph by Morhig, Khartoum.*

FIG. 1.—GENERAL VIEW OF THE LABORATORIES AND GORDON COLLEGE.

[*Photograph by the Laboratories.*

FIG. 2.—BACTERIOLOGICAL OUT-HOUSES.

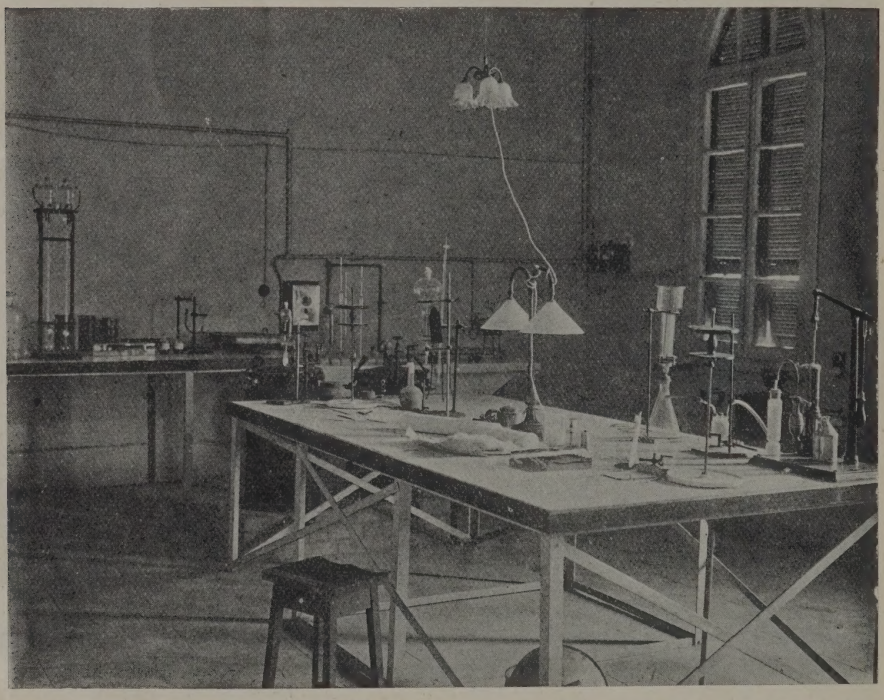
appearance of the main corridor, which in part serves as a Pathological Museum, can be realized by a study of fig. 3, and a typical room is illustrated by fig. 4, which represents the sterilizing and media preparation room of the Bacteriological Section. The whole Laboratory is divided into Bacteriological, Chemical and Entomological Sections. The first-named consists of a Director's Office, library and private laboratory, a main office, a media preparation room, a general laboratory, an incubator room and separate private laboratories for Captain Archibald and Captain O'Farrell. In the latter's room is situate the accommodation for

[*Special Photograph by Morhig, Khartoum.*

FIG. 3.—THE MAIN CORRIDOR AND PATHOLOGICAL MUSEUM.

a working visitor. There are also photographic and microphotographic rooms, store rooms and out-houses. The Chemical Section consists of Dr. Beam's private room and library, two laboratories with store rooms and a still room; while the Entomological Section comprises Mr. King's private room and library, a laboratory and a special store room. The Laboratories are intended to serve the following purposes: (*a*) To promote the study, bacteriologically, of tropical disorders, especially the infective diseases of both man and beast peculiar to the Sudan, and to render assistance to the officers of health, and to the clinics of the civil and military hospitals. (*b*) To aid experimental investigations in poisoning cases by the detection and experimental determination of toxic

agents, particularly the obscure potent substances employed by the natives. (*c*) To carry out chemical and bacteriological tests in connection with water, food stuffs, and health and sanitary matters as may be found desirable. (*d*) To undertake the testing and assaying of agricultural, mineral and other substances of practical interest in the industrial development of the Sudan. In order to bring the Laboratories into touch with the out-stations, use is made of the Nile, which traverses the Sudan from north to south. A steamer with a floating laboratory can be sent to any navigable part of the river and this enables collections and investigations to be made in regions far from Khartoum. The pub-



[*Special Photograph by Morhig, Khartoum.*

FIG. 4.—THE STERILIZING AND MEDIA PREPARATION ROOM.

lications of the Laboratories in addition to the reports and reviews mentioned above are to be found in numerous original papers scattered through medical and scientific journals. It is not possible to complete this short account without drawing the reader's attention to the great debt of gratitude which the Laboratories owe to Earl Kitchener, Sir Reginald Wingate and Mr. Currie for their continued interest in its welfare and for the efforts they have made to promote its success.

ALBERT J. CHALMERS,
Director, Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories.

Khartoum,
July 26, 1914.

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